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ABSTRACT

This twenty-four item scale assesses students' actual and desired political-social activism in terms of physical participation, communication activities, and information-gathering activities. About ten minutes are required to complete the instrument. The scale is divided into two subscales. The first twelve items (ACT-A) question respondents on their Actual Activity, i.e., the average actual frequency of participation in various sociopolitical activities during the prior three years. The remaining items (ACT-D) ask the respondents to indicate their Desired Activity, i.e., the average desired frequency of participation in the same activities during the same period had the respondent been free of all obligations. Scoring of the subscales is a simple sum of weighted response alternatives. Response alternatives (a) are given a weight of 1; (b), 2; (c), 3; (d), 4; (e), 5. These are summed for the subscales; ACT-A consists of the sum of scores for items 1-12; ACT -D consists of the sum for items 13-24. Scores on each subscale can range 12 (low activity) to 60 (high activity). In previous research, college student sociopolitical activists were found to score significantly higher than nonactivists on both ACT subscales. Split-half reliabilities were also high: 0.93 and 0.96 for the ACT-A and the ACT-D subscales respectively. (Author)

ED042821

ACTIVITY SCALE

by Larry C. Kerpelman and Michael J. Weiner

DIRECTIONS

This is a survey for research purposes only, and as such, there are no right or wrong answers. We are seeking to measure students' experiences and expectations concerning certain general issues. Please read each question carefully and blacken in the appropriate space in the answer sheet according to the response that comes most closely to your actual state of affairs.

In the following questions the word "issues" refers solely to broad political and social issues on or off campus. Campus issues that have little or no broad political or social implications (such as support or protest of food service, grading practices, teaching practices) are not to be considered issues for the purposes of this inventory. Campus issues that would have broad political or social implications (such as support or protest of controversial speakers or films, controversial books in the library) are to be considered issues for the purposes of this inventory. Off campus issues that have no broad political or social implications (such as support or protest of city or town tax policy, local school board appointments, etc.) are not to be considered issues for the purposes of this inventory. Off campus issues that would have broad political or social implications (such as support or protest of U.S. foreign policy, major election campaigns, etc.) are to be considered issues for the purposes of this inventory.

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1. How many times in the past three years have you organized a group to support or protest a political or social issue?

   a) 0 times b) 1-2 times c) 3-4 times d) 5-6 times e) 7 or more times

2. How many times in the past three years have you led, or directly assisted in leading, an already organized group supporting or protesting a political or social issue?

   a) 0 times b) 1-2 times c) 3-4 times d) 5-6 times e) 7 or more times

3. How many times in the past three years have you participated in a group supporting or protesting a political or social issue?

   a) 0 times b) 1-2 times c) 3-4 times d) 5-6 times e) 7 or more times

4. How many times in the past three years have you engaged in an extended argument with anyone over a political or social issue?

   a) 0 times b) 1-2 times c) 3-4 times d) 5-6 times e) 7 or more times

5. How many times in the past three years have you addressed a formal audience (i.e., been a scheduled speaker) concerning a political or social issue?

   a) 0 times b) 1-2 times c) 3-4 times d) 5-6 times e) 7 or more times

6. Approximately how much time during the average day do you spend trying to convince others to support or protest political or social issues?

   a) less than 15 min. b) 15-30 min. c) 30 min.- 1 hr. d) 1-2 hr. e) more than 2 hr.

7. Approximately how much time during the average day do you spend discussing political or social issues?

   a) less than 15 min. b) 15-30 min. c) 30 min.- 1 hr. d) 1-2 hr. e) more than 2 hr.

8. How many times in the past three years have you written something (pamphlet, handout, etc.) designed specifically to either inform or convince other people concerning a political or social issue?

   a) 0 times b) 1-2 times c) 3-4 times d) 5-6 times e) 7 or more times

9. How many books during the average month do you read on political or social issues?

a) 0 b) 1-2 c) 3-4 d) 5-6 e) 7 or more

10. How much time during the average day do you spend reading material, the bulk of which includes news, comment, or factual information on political or social issues?

a) less than 15 min. b) 15-30 min. c) 30 min.- 1 hr. d) 1-2 hr. e) more than 2 hr.

11. How many times during the average month do you attend meetings which have as their focus political or social issues?

a) 0 times b) 1-2 times c) 3-4 times d) 5-6 times e) 7 or more times

12. How many times in an average month do you go to hear scheduled speakers talking about political or social issues?

a) 0 times b) 1-2 times c) 3-4 times d) 5-6 times e) 7 or more times

Imagine yourself as having been free from all financial, social, academic, etc. responsibilities or any other commitments on your time during the past three years. Answer the following questions in terms of <u>what you would have liked to have done</u> if that were the case.

13. How many times in the last three years would you have liked to have organized a group to support or protest a political or social issue?

a) 0 times b) 1-2 times c) 3-4 times d) 5-6 times e) 7 or more times

14. How many times in the last three years would you have liked to have led, or directly assisted in leading, an already organized group supporting or protesting a political or social issue?

a) 0 times b) 1-2 times c) 3-4 times d) 5-6 times e) 7 or more times

15. How many times in the last three years would you have liked to have participated in a group supporting or protesting a political or social issue?

a) 0 times b) 1-2 times c) 3-4 times d) 5-6 times e) 7 or more times

16. How many times in the last three years would you have liked to have engaged in an extended argument with anyone over a political or social issue?

a) 0 times b) 1-2 times c) 3-4 times d) 5-6 times e) 7 or more times

17. How many times in the past three years would you have liked to have addressed a formal audience (i.e., been a scheduled speaker) concerning a political or social issue?

a) 0 times b) 1-2 times c) 3-4 times d) 5-6 times e) 7 or more times

18. Approximately how much time during the average day would you like to spend convincing others to support or protest political or social issues?

a) less than 15 min. b) 15-30 min. c) 30 min.- 1 hr. d) 1-2 hr. e) more than 2 hr.

19. Approximately how much time during the average day would you like to spend discussing political or social issues?

a) less than 15 min. b) 15-30 min. c) 30 min.- 1 hr. d) 1-2 hr. e) more than 2 hr.

20. How many times during the past three years would you have liked to have written something (pamphlet, handout, etc.) designed specifically to either inform or convince other people concerning a political or social issue?

a) 0 times b) 1-2 times c) 3-4 times d) 5-6 times e) 7 or more times

21. How many books during the average month would you have liked to have read on political or social issues?

a) 0 b) 1-2 c) 3-4 d) 5-6 e) 7 or more

22. How much time during the average day would you like to spend reading material, the bulk of which includes news, comment, or factual information on political or social issues?

a) less than 15 min. b) 15-30 min. c) 30 min.- 1 hr. d) 1-2 hr. e) more than 2 hr.

23. How many times during the average month would you like to attend meetings which have as their focus political or social issues?

a) 0 times b) 1-2 times c) 3-4 times d) 5-6 times e) 7 or more times

24. How many times in the average month would you like to go to hear a scheduled speaker talking about political or social issues?

a) 0 times b) 1-2 times c) 3-4 times d) 5-6 times e) 7 or more times